

Serial No: 10/707,615

9

LC 0143 PUS (04259)

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REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 13-14 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Jakubiec et al (US 6,129,400). Claims 5,7, and 15 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jakubiec in view of Tiesler (US 6,045,173). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jakubiec in view of Lein (US 6,761,388). Claims 9-12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jakubiec in view of Klopp (US 6,851,736). Claims 4 and 6 were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and seeks reconsideration in light of the aforementioned amendments and following arguments. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for recognition of the allowable material and has rewritten these claims as independent.

Claims 1-3, 13-14 and 16 rejected under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1-3, 13-14 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Jakubiec et al (US 6,129,400). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and seeks reconsideration. The Applicant notes that the upper console portion in the cited reference does not in fact have an upper console base with an open upper console base top and an OPEN upper console base bottom as claimed by the present invention. Nor does the cited reference teach that after installation an extended depth storage bin is formed by the joining of the upper and lower console bases as claimed by the present invention. Rather the upper console base in the cited reference is a separate storage section which does not join up with the lower base to form an extended depth storage bin

Serial No: 10/707,615

10

LC 0143 PUS (04259)

as claimed. The amendments to the claims are for further clarification that the claimed upper and lower bases are joined to form a singular contiguous bin. Although the Applicant asserts this limitation was clear as originally filed, the amendments make this apparent beyond a shadow of a doubt.

In addition, independent claim 13 has been amended to include language that upon moving the upper console base into the installation position it permanently engages the lower console bin to form the extended depth storage bin. The Applicant notes that the term permanent is intended to mean "customer inoperable" and not a permanent melding of the structures. It is contemplated that manufactures and dealers may utilize tools or other methodologies to separate the sections for maintenance. However, this permanent formation of an extended bin is not taught or suggested by ANY of the cited references. They all utilize a separate user-operable compartment for the upper console bin and therefore do not teach the limitations of the present invention. For this and the reasons above the Applicant seeks reconsideration.

Claims rejected under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 5,7, and 15 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jakubiec in view of Tiesler (US 6,045,173). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jakubiec in view of Lein (US 6,761,388). Claims 9-12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jakubiec in view of Klopp (US 6,851,736).

The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and incorporates the arguments above with regard to the Jakubiec reference and its failure to teach the

Serial No: 10/707,615

11

LC 0143 PUS (04259)

underlying limitations of the present invention. Furthermore, the Applicant traverses the assertion that Tiesler teaches the upper console base having an engagement sleeve formed by the upper base outer and inner walls (both) that engages the lower base console walls as claimed by the present invention. The Applicant respectfully seeks reconsideration in this light as well as the aforementioned arguments.

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for his recognition of the allowable matter and asserts the application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas Donohue
Reg. No. 44,660
Artz & Artz, P.C.
28333 Telegraph Road, Suite 250
Southfield, MI 48034
(248) 223-9500
(248) 223-9522 (Fax)

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